

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 17, 2005. Claims 1 to 19, 23 to 41 and 45 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 10, 11, 23, 32, 33 and 45 have been amended, and Claims 1, 23 and 45 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 12 to 19, 23, 34 to 41 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,884,249 (Namba). Claims 2 to 11 and 24 to 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Namba in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,767 (Jackson). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns information processing. A status of an apparatus or a program executed therein is acquired, and a status concept instance is generated from the acquired status of the apparatus or program. A plurality of input means (or units) input different types of information. Information input from each of the plurality of input means (or units) is stored with an input time thereof in a storage means (or unit). At least two types of information stored in the storage means (or unit) is sorted in an order in accordance with the input time. An input concept instance is generated from a sequence of the at least two types of information sorted in the input time order. In addition, the status concept instance and the input concept instance are unified.

Thus, among its many features, the present invention provides for (i) generating a status concept instance from a status of an apparatus or a program executed in the apparatus, (ii) generating an input concept instance from a sequence of at least two types of information, which is input from each of a plurality of input means (or units) with an input time, sorted in an input time order, and (iii) unifying the status concept instance

and the input concept instance.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claims 1, 23 and 45 are respectively directed to an apparatus, a method and a computer-readable storage medium.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Namba and Jackson are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) generating a status concept instance from a status of an apparatus or a program executed in the apparatus, (ii) generating an input concept instance from a sequence of at least two types of information, which is input from each of a plurality of input means (or units) with an input time, sorted in an input time order, and (iii) unifying the status concept instance and the input concept instance.

As understood by Applicants, Namba discloses a method for managing plural pieces of input information accepted via plural input means. The plural input means include a voice recognition section, a touch-panel section and a keyboard section. See Namba, column 6, line 50 to column 7, line 15. An input time of the input information is recognized, and a recognition result is obtained by dividing or merging the input information into the primitive analysis unit predetermined. An input time of the recognition result is estimated using an estimating method predetermined for each inputting means. Some of the recognition results whose estimated input times are close to one another are collected, and the collected information is managed as a semantic analysis unit. See Namba, column 2, lines 20 to 32.

Although Namba may be seen to disclose the management of plural pieces of input information from plural input means, Namba is not seen to disclose or suggest the generation of a status concept instance and an input concept instance, where the status

concept instance is generated from a status of an apparatus or a program executed in an apparatus, and where an input concept instance is generated from a sequence of at least two types of information, which is input from each of a plurality of input means (or units) with an input time, sorted in an input time order. Moreover, Namba is not seen to disclose or suggest the unification of the status concept instance and the input concept instance. Rather, Namba is merely seen to disclose that estimated input times which are close to one another are collected, and that the collected information is managed as a semantic analysis unit.

Accordingly, Namba is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) generating a status concept instance from a status of an apparatus or a program executed in the apparatus, (ii) generating an input concept instance from a sequence of at least two types of information, which is input from each of a plurality of input means (or units) with an input time, sorted in an input time order, and (iii) unifying the status concept instance and the input concept instance.

In addition, Jackson has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Namba. In particular, although column 5, lines 4 to 58 and Figure 3 of Jackson may be seen to disclose language interpretation in which a phrase is matched against a grammar with a slot-filling command, Jackson is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) generating a status concept instance from a status of an apparatus or a program executed in the apparatus, (ii) generating an input concept instance from a sequence of at least two types of information, which is input from each of a plurality of input means (or units) with an input time, sorted in an input time order, and (iii) unifying the status concept instance and the input concept instance.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 23 and 45 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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